

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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DRAFTED BY L/ARA:RFINN:GLS
APPROVED BY L - MR. HANSELL
H - MR. MOSS
L/ARA - MR. KOZAK
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR/PN

SUBJECT: DECONCINI RESERVATION

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DECONCINI RESERVATION, YOU WILL
BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR CHURCH
MADE JUST PRIOR TO THE VOTE ON THE RESERVATION (CONGRESS-
IONAL RECORD FOR MARCH 16, PAGE S.3824); BEGIN QUOTE:

MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM
ALABAMA MOVES TO AMEND THE PROPOSED RESERVATION BY THE ABLE
SENATOR FROM ARIZONA (MR. DECONCINI), I ASK THE CHAIR TO
RECOGNIZE ME TO MAKE A MOTION TO LAY THAT AMENDMENT ON
THE TABLE BEFORE WE PROCEED TO VOTE.

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NOW, MR. PRESIDENT, THIS RESERVATION RESTRICTS THE USE OF
AMERICAN MILITARY FORCE, SHOULD THAT EVER BE NECESSARY IN
THE FUTURE, TO TWO PURPOSES: THE RESERVATION CLEARLY READS
"IF THE CANAL IS CLOSED OR ITS OPERATIONS ARE INTERFERED
WITH."

IN EITHER OF THOSE TWO CASES, MR. PRESIDENT, THE REGIME

OF NEUTRALITY, THE OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING THE CANAL OPEN,
NEUTRAL, ACCESSIBLE, AND SAFE OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE THWARTED.

WHEN THE LEADERSHIP AMENDMENT TO THE TREATY WAS ADOPTED,
THE UNITED STATES RESERVED THE RIGHT TO ACT UNILATERALLY

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES, TO
DEFEND THE CANAL AGAINST ANY THREAT TO THE REGIME OF
NEUTRALITY AND, CONSEQUENTLY, TO ACT AGAINST ANY
AGGRESSION OR THREAT DIRECTED AGAINST THE CANAL OR
AGAINST THE PEACEFUL TRANSIT OF VESSELS THROUGH THE
CANAL.

ANY INTERFERENCE WITH THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL, ANY
STOPPAGE, ANY CLOSURE, WOULD CLEARLY PREVENT THE PEACEFUL
TRANSIT OF VESSELS THROUGH THE CANAL AND CLEARLY
CONTRADICT THE REGIME OF NEUTRALITY TO WHICH BOTH
THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ARE COMMITTED.

THEREFORE, THIS RESERVATION MUST BE CONSIDERED, IN MY
VIEW, IN PART AS A RESTATEMENT, IN PART AS AN ELABORATION
OF THE AMENDMENT ALREADY ADOPTED BY THE SENATE TO
ARTICLE IV OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY.

AS SUCH, IT IS ACCEPTABLE AND I HOPE THAT THE SENATE
WILL ADOPT IT. END QUOTE. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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